

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5240

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, GR

SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 25 NAC: AMBASSADOR CHORAFAS' (GREECE) FAREWELL
REMARKS

REF: USNATO 5185

1. AT CONCLUSION OF NAC MEETING OF SEPTEMBER 25, SYG LUNS AND DEAN DE STAERCKE (BELGIUM) PAID TRIBUTE TO AMBASSADOR CHORAFAS ON OCCASION OF HIS FAREWELL MEETING IN THE COUNCIL. THEIR REMARKS WERE PRAIS-
WORTHY OF CHORAFAS AND WARM TO GREECE. TRADTTIONAL SILVER BOWL WAS THEN PRESENTED.

2. CHORAFAS' RESPONSE WAS IN A PERSONAL VEIN AND "BITTER". HE NOTED THE

UNFAVORABLE CIRCUMSTANCES HE HAD WORKED UNDER FOR HIS TWO YEARS AS GREEK PERMREP DURING THE TIME OF THE MILITARY JUNTA. DURING THAT PERIOD HE HAD HAD TO WATCH EVERYTHING HE SAID. NOW THAT GREECE HAS

A FREE GOVERNMENT HE HAD EXPECTED A RADICAL CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE
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ALLIES. HE FOUND, HOWEVER, THAT THE CHANGE WAS VERY SLIGHT. HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF WHETHER THE TREATMENT OF THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVE HAD BEEN DUE TO THE COLONELS IN ATHENS OR WHETHER IT WAS DUE TO THE ALLIES' BASIC ATTITUDE TOWARD GREECE.

3. HE DECLARED THAT THE ALLIANCE HAD REACHED A TURNING POINT AND THAT IT WAS IN A STATE OF CRISIS. HE NOTED IN THIS CONNECTION THE MIDDLE EAST, CYPRUS, THE LONG DELAY IN AGREEING ON THE ATLANTIC DECLARATION, AND THE GENERAL LOSS OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN NATO. HE THOUGHT THESE WERE NOT GOOD OMENS FOR THE FUTURE. HE SAID THAT NATO HAD NO EFFICIENT MEANS TO ACT IN CIRSES AND THAT I COULD NOT CONTINUE TO REMAIN INDIFFERENT TO THIS SITUATION. HE SAW NO SOLUTION TO NATO'S PROBLEMS AT PRESENT AND SAID THAT IT WAS UP TO NATO AND THE ALLIES TO UNDERTAKE A STUDY OF THE PROBLEM AND TO FIND A SOLUTION.

4. IN CONCLUDING, CHORAFAS PAID WARM PERSONAL TRIBUTE TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND TO THE DEAN AND CONVEYED HIGH PERSONAL REGARD FOR HIS OTHER COLLEAGUES.

5. COMMENT: CHORAFAS' STATEMENT WAS MADE FROM HAND WRITTEN NOTES AND, THEREFORE, PROBABLY WAS NOT FORMALLY CLEARED WITH ATHENS. THE STATEMENT WAS NOT WELL RECEIVED BY THE ALLIES. SOME HAVE ALREADY OBSERVED THAT CHORAFAS' CHARGES THAT NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL IS INEFFECTIVE ARE HARDLY CONSISTENT WITH STATEMENTS BY KARAMANLIS GOVERNMENT THAT GREECE WISHES TO REMAIN IN THE POLITICAL SIDE OF THE ALLIANCE. OTHERS HAVE COMMENTED THAT NATO-GREEK RELATIONS ARE UNLIKELY TO IMPROVE MARKEDLY SINCE CHORAFAS IN HIS PROBABLE NEW POST AS HEAD OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GREEK FOREIGN MINISTRY WILL REPORTEDLY BE RESPONSIBLE INTER ALIA FOR RELATIONS WITH THE ALLIANCE. MISSION WILL ENDEAVOR TO OBTAIN FULL TEXT OF CHORAFAS STATEMENT FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE DEPARTMENT.
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